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## EGYPT.

*Plague on steamship Aida at Port Said.*

[From report addressed to the president of the quarantine council of Egypt by the inspector-general of the quarantine service, under date of February 13, 1905. From the Bulletin Quarantenaire, Alexandria, February 16, 1905.]

This vessel, returning from a visit of inspection to the light-houses of the Red Sea, arrived at Suez February 1, 1905, and remained there until February 4, the date of its departure for Port Said.

To complete his crew the commandant engaged at Suez a Soudanese, formerly provisional guard in the quarantine service. Nothing in the appearance of the man indicated that he was attacked with plague. On February 5, twenty-four hours after leaving port, he complained of being ill and stopped work. During the transit of the canal the disease increased, and on February 5 the patient died, having manifested, according to the declaration of the officers, only a slight fever and cough. Careful medical examination of the corpse showed no trace of buboes, and death appeared to have been caused by pleurisy; but as a precautionary measure the *Aida* was held in observation, disinfection of the dunnage, of the crew, and of clothing in use, and soiled linen was immediately performed, and medical visit was made daily.

On February 8 a second sailor, occupying a berth adjoining that of the deceased, was taken ill. The quarantine physician stated, February 9, a temperature of 39° C.; cough and bronchial râles, but no bubo. Death was rapid, and bacteriological examination of blood from the spleen gave positive results of plague. The two cases on board the *Aida* were apparently pneumonic plague, and their connection is easily established as follows:

1. Suez infected with plague, and where the presence of the disease in the pneumonic form has been frequently verified.
2. Soudanese sailor in incubation period of plague, engaged at Suez February 1, fell seriously ill on February 5 and died February 8.
3. Contamination of his berth neighbor, also a Soudanese, on February 8; death occurred on February 10.

The *Aida* was subjected:

1. To five days observation.
2. Daily medical visit to sailors landed at lazaretto (26 men). Daily visit on board to officers and crew remaining on board (13 men).
3. Disinfection of soiled linen, all effects, bed clothing, dunnage, carpenters' shop, and all parts and places of the ship susceptible to contamination.
4. Destruction of rats.

*Plague on steamship Imperator.*

[From the Bulletin Quarantenaire, Alexandria, February 16, 1905.]

Austrian mail steamer *Imperator*: Left Bombay, February 1; left Aden, February 7; arrived at Suez, February 13. Destination, Trieste. Crew, 101. Passengers, 52. Cargo, general. The physician on board declared to the quarantine authorities at Suez that on the 7th instant

a Greek passenger of the third class was landed at Aden with symptoms of plague. This diagnosis was confirmed by official dispatch from the British resident at Aden. A suspect case was reported by the quarantine physician after medical visit at Suez. This patient, together with 22 passengers destined for Egypt, was landed at the sanitary station of the Wells of Moses, and the vessel passed the canal in quarantine after disinfection.

#### GERMANY.

*Report from Berlin—Plague in Egypt—Death rate of Berlin and other cities—German death rate, 1851–1902—Berlin death rate, 1831–1903.*

Consul-General Mason reports, March 8 and 10, as follows:

*Egypt.*—Two fresh cases of plague were registered on February 9 in Suez. During the period from February 18 to 25 there occurred 2 cases of plague (and 2 deaths) in Suez and 1 case in the district of Tukh.

#### *Death rate of Berlin and other cities.*

The death rate of Berlin for the week ended February 25 was lower than that of the previous week, amounting, calculated on the year, to 16.3 per thousand of the population, thus being, however, considerably higher than the rate for the same week of last year, in which it amounted to only 13.9 per thousand. More than half of the large German towns and cities showed this week more favorable health conditions than Berlin, namely: Hamburg, Nuremberg, Carlsruhe, Frankfort-on-the-Main, Cologne, Hanover, Leipzig, Schöneberg (with 12.3), Charlottenburg (with 11.6), Rixdorf (with 13.4). On the other hand, the following cities showed less favorable figures than Berlin, viz: Munich, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Magdeburg, Halle, Dresden, Breslau, Königsberg. The mortality rate of Paris and Vienna was considerably higher than the Berlin figure, while the London figure was a little lower than that of Berlin. Since the foregoing week the number of deaths among children in the first year of life showed an increase, so that the drop in the mortality rate was confined exclusively to the higher-age classes. The rate of mortality among infants, 4 per year and thousand, was lower than that of Hamburg, Munich, and Leipzig. There were registered 84 deaths from tuberculosis (as compared with 122 in the foregoing week), 105 deaths from acute diseases of the respiratory organs (including 9 from influenza), 39 deaths from cancer, 12 deaths from diphtheria, 10 deaths from scarlet fever, 7 deaths from measles, and, finally, 15 persons died by violence.